



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The December 2000 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.2 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate remains unchanged from November 2000 and from December 1999. The number of unemployed persons is down 100 individuals from November, and up 200 individuals from a year ago. The number of persons employed grew by 300 over the month and increased by 7,200 persons from one year ago. Including the employed and the unemployed individuals, the *Civilian Labor Force* grew by 200 over the month and by 7,400 over the year in the Boise City MSA.

The Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,000 jobs from November 2000 and increased 9,000 jobs from December 1999. *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 100 workers over the month with decreases noted in *Construction & Mining* (200 jobs), *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes Manufacturing* (100 jobs), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (300 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100 jobs). The job losses in these industries outpaced job growth in *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100 jobs), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* (200 jobs), and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components except Computer Equipment* (300 jobs). *Service-Producing Industries* gained 1,100 jobs over the month with nearly 64 percent of the increases noted in *Retail Trade*. The large increases in *Trade* may be attributed to an influx of seasonal employees in these establishments during the holiday shopping frenzy. *Business Services* gained 500 jobs over

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
(Ada and Canyon counties)

	Dec 2000*	Nov 2000	Dec 1999	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	239,600	239,400	232,200	0.1	3.2
Unemployment	7,600	7,700	7,400	-1.3	2.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.2	3.2		
Total Employment	232,000	231,700	224,800	0.1	3.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	242,300	243,200	234,800	-0.4	3.2
Unemployment	7,600	7,100	7,500	7.0	1.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	2.9	3.2		
Total Employment	234,700	236,100	227,300	-0.6	3.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	226,600	225,600	217,600	0.4	4.1
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	54,000	54,100	52,500	-0.2	2.9
Mining & Construction	16,800	17,000	15,500	-1.2	8.4
Manufacturing	37,200	37,100	37,000	0.3	0.5
Durable Goods	28,500	28,300	28,100	0.7	1.4
Lumber & Wood Products	3,400	3,400	3,600	0.0	-5.6
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	900	1,100	-11.1	-27.3
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,600	2,500	2,500	4.0	4.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	8,200	8,000	8,300	2.5	-1.2
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	12,200	11,900	11,200	2.5	8.9
Transportation Equipment	1,600	1,600	1,900	0.0	-15.8
Other Durable Goods	1,800	2,100	1,800	-14.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,700	8,800	8,900	-1.1	-2.2
Food Products	5,800	5,800	6,100	0.0	-4.9
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	2,100	2,100	2,200	0.0	-4.5
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	900	1,000	900	-10.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	172,600	171,500	165,100	0.6	4.5
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	11,400	11,500	11,300	-0.9	0.9
Transportation	6,700	6,600	6,600	1.5	1.5
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	4,700	4,900	4,700	-4.1	0.0
Trade	56,900	56,300	53,900	1.1	5.6
Wholesale Trade	13,300	13,400	13,200	-0.7	0.8
Durable Goods	7,700	7,700	7,500	0.0	2.7
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,700	5,700	-1.8	-1.8
Retail Trade	43,600	42,900	40,700	1.6	7.1
General Merchandise Stores	6,000	5,810	4,700	3.3	27.7
Foods Stores	8,300	8,200	7,900	1.2	5.1
Eating & Drinking Places	14,900	14,800	14,000	0.7	6.4
Other Retail Trade	14,400	14,090	14,100	2.2	2.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,700	11,700	11,400	0.0	2.6
Services	59,300	59,000	55,700	0.5	6.5
Business Services	15,000	14,500	13,600	3.4	10.3
Health Services	16,400	16,400	15,600	0.0	5.1
Hospitals	7,600	7,600	7,100	0.0	7.0
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,500	4,500	4,100	0.0	9.8
Other Services	23,400	23,600	22,400	-0.8	4.5
Government	33,300	33,000	32,800	0.9	1.5
Federal Government	3,900	4,000	4,600	-2.5	-15.2
State Government	12,300	12,000	11,900	2.5	3.4
Education	4,800	4,500	4,200	6.7	14.3
Administration	7,500	7,500	7,700	0.0	-2.6
Local Government	17,100	17,000	16,300	0.6	4.9
Education	11,300	11,300	10,700	0.0	5.6
Administration	5,800	5,700	5,600	1.8	3.6

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

the month, primarily in temporary service agencies. From December 1999 to December 2000, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 9,000. *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for nearly 17 percent of these increases, adding 1,500 jobs over the year. The increase was primarily in *Mining & Construction* with the addition of 1,300 jobs and *Electronic & Other Electronic Equipment & Component Manufacturing*, which added 1,000 jobs over the year. *Service-Producing Industries* accounted for the other 83 percent of jobs added over the year. The majority of jobs were added in *Retail Trade* (2,900 jobs), *Business Services* (1,400 jobs), and *Other Services* (1,000 jobs).

SPECIAL TOPICS: BOISE CASCADE

On February 13, Boise Cascade Corporation announced the permanent closure of the company's plywood and lumber operations and cogeneration facility in Emmett and its sawmill in Cascade. The facilities will close this year in mid-June, which will allow the company to deplete its inventory at those locations. The closures of these facilities will affect 375 total workers, 275 in Emmett, 80 in Cascade, and 20 additional forestry and administrative positions within the company. Boise Cascade will continue to operate the laminated beam facility in Emmett and the River Bend remanufacturing facility in Horseshoe Bend. The Department of Labor has sent a rapid response team to work with the workers of Boise Cascade in these communities in providing immediate assistance in terms of organizing unemployment insurance, job search efforts, and training services to the workers.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- The Boise Airport expansion/renovation project is underway. Included in the project is a new 256,000-square foot, three-story terminal that will include an expanded ticketing area that will add five new counters. Terminal access improvements will be made for passengers driving to the airport, including much easier access to ticketing counters on the second level, and baggage-claim areas on the ground level. New security systems and a new baggage handling system will be added along with a new parking lot. No final cost of the project has been announced, although the project could cost near \$100 million. The entire expansion project should be completed in 2003.
- Washington Group International, Inc. was

awarded a contract worth \$8.4 billion over six years, the largest contract in the company's 89-year history. No new jobs will be created in Boise, but the company's financial standing will become stronger as a result of the contract in South Carolina with the Department of Energy. Westinghouse Savannah River Co. LLC was awarded a six-year extension to operate its sprawling Savannah River complex. Westinghouse Savannah River Co. is a company that is led by Washington Group International and includes Bechtel, BWXT, and BNFL, Inc.

- The Idanha Hotel at 10th and Main Streets in downtown Boise will open its renovated interior early this year. The hotel, opened nearly 100 years ago, will open this year as apartments. The final touches are being put on the apartments and should be completed in April.
- Faust home-décor store closed its doors in January. The 5,500-square foot store was located in the 8th Street Marketplace. Company officials did not cite specific reasons for the closure. Two smaller businesses in the 8th Street Marketplace and the 8th Street Marketplace Theater were also closed in the same month.
- Rent-A-Center opened a new Boise outlet in January, and announced plans to open another six stores in Idaho and Oregon by April 2001. Both Nampa and Caldwell have been named as possible sites for some stores.
- The Furniture Outlet Super Store in Boise moved from its site in the Franklin Center at Orchard and Franklin to the former Fred Meyer building in the Hillcrest Shopping Center. The new facility offers a much larger space than the existing building. The company also announced that four or five new employees could be hired as a result of the move.
- Hummel Architects P.A. announced plans in January to build a two-story building on Bogus Basin Road that will provide the business more space and a chance to showcase some of its design abilities. In the next two years, the company plans to add ten employees. The company will move to the new site when completed and move out of the Hoff building in downtown Boise, where the company has been for the past five

years.

- Citadel Communications Corporation, the sixth largest radio broadcasting company in the nation, was sold in mid-January to the New York investment firm Forstmann Little & Co., for \$2 billion. The company operated five radio stations in Boise and had a total of 209 stations in 44 mid-size markets. Citadel's current management team released a statement stating that no changes in operations are expected and the management team will continue to run the company.
- Mountain West Bank received approval to build and operate a full-service branch in Meridian. The City of Meridian needs to grant approval before construction begins, and if approved, the Coeur d'Alene-based company hopes to start construction in February or March and open this summer. The Meridian branch will employ about 25 employees.
- Preco Electronics, a Boise electronics company, announced in early January that it acquired a contract worth \$10 million with Symbol Technologies. Preco will send about 12,000 mobile computing system units to the New York company that will place the units inside maintenance and service vehicles in North America. Preco employs about 500 people in the Treasure Valley.
- HostPro, a Micronpc.com web-hosting subsidiary, recently launched its first wireless Internet service in Boise. NetNow Fixed Wireless is being test-marketed in Boise and is targeted as an affordable way to provide broadband Internet access for small and medium businesses. If the initial offering in the test market in Boise is successful, HostPro's wireless service will be expanded to other markets.
- MCMS reduced the workforce at its Nampa location by 70 employees in January. Company officials cited a slowdown in the economy that affected the technology industry as the reason for the layoffs. Temporary positions at the site were reduced rather than permanent ones. If the economy picks up in the next few months, most of the positions lost will be reinstated and the workers could return.
- The new Cancer Treatment Center located at 3119 Commercial Way in Caldwell, near I-84 and Franklin Road, is now open. A partnership be-

tween St. Alphonsus and West Valley Medical Centers allowed the construction of the Caldwell Cancer Treatment Center. The two hospitals shared in the funding of the \$4.5 million center, which provides the latest technological advancements for cancer therapy. The new center offers the same treatments that are available in Boise but is more convenient for residents in the western end of the Treasure Valley.

- Environmental Oil Processing Technology, Inc., located in Nampa, started selling stock in January in an effort to raise money to expand operations beyond the Treasure Valley. The company takes used oil and turns it into products like diesel fuel and other more valuable commodities that will bring in a higher profit. The company uses a \$9 million refinery to produce these products.
- In late January, J.C. Penney announced the closure of about fifty stores throughout the country including the Catalog Service Center in Nampa this spring. Efforts are being made by the company to place four workers that will be affected by the closure at the Boise Towne Square Mall location, although it will remain open.
- The Pet Haven Thrift Store opened in mid-February at its new location at 619 Main Street in Caldwell. The new facility is nearly three-times larger than the previous facility. Proceeds from the sale of most donated items are used to support Pet Haven's shelter at 333 W. Orchard Street in Nampa.

Elmore County

- The Pilot Truck Stop has finally begun the rebuilding process after a fire destroyed it last July. The restaurant will not be rebuilt, but a fast food court will be included in the rebuilt structure. The construction should be completed and the truck stop reopened in late spring.
- In January, two new businesses opened in Elmore County. Renaissance Consignment is located at 360 S. Main Street and offers an opportunity to recycle home furnishings and collectibles. Curl-Up-N-Dye also opened in Mountain Home at 519 Airbase Road. The salon has four styling chairs, two nail stations, and four tanning beds.

Gem County

- In mid-January, the Emmett Planning & Zoning Commission awarded a special use permit to place a modular unit next to the current Gem County Jail facility to house minimum-risk inmates. A modular unit was not purchased before the approval was made, but the expected unit is approximately 8 by 54 feet and could house up to 12 inmates. The use of the modular unit should eliminate the need for Gem County to transport inmates to other counties. This is only a temporary solution to the crowded jail problem in Gem County.

Payette County

- In January, Independent-Enterprise Newspaper moved to a larger location about a block south of its original location to 124 S. Main in Payette. The move provided the paper with almost three times more space than the previous facility.
- Woodgrain Millwork in Fruitland announced a reduction of 40 employees on January 25. The cut-backs occurred in the company's prefabricated division and were equal to about one shift. The layoffs were a result of a downturn in the manufactured home industry. The layoffs in this industry were not unusual, as many of the prefabricated wood products and mobile home manufacturers have had a reduction in force over the past six months, both permanent and temporary.
- Chiquita, based in Cincinnati, released a statement in late January that announced the company could go bankrupt as a result of the European Union's (EU) system of tariffs and quotas designed to reduce imports. Officials at Chiquita Bands International, Inc. remain confident that the company will undergo some restructuring, but that bankruptcy or closing subsidiaries, including the Payette processing plant, are only rumors. The restructuring will have very little, if any, change to the operations at the Payette processing plant.

Valley County

- In January, the Star-News published a series of stories about the growing Hispanic population in McCall. Experts say that the increased demand for service workers in hotel, restaurant, and landscaping industries in resort towns are fueling the influx of Hispanic workers over the decade into

the area. The language barrier may be a problem, but most jobs allow a learning transfer for all involved, where English and Spanish speaking persons teach each other in the process of doing their jobs. Many people of Hispanic origin have moved to McCall mostly because there has been an increasing employment opportunity there and in surrounding areas in the last few years. The article mentioned that most people are moving there permanently as opposed to relocating for a temporary job and then leaving. For more information on this series, please contact the Star News in McCall.

Washington County

- In mid-January, the Weiser City Council opened the bidding period for contractors in building the Vendome Events Center. The new facility is expected to cost near \$1.2 million without counting architectural fees. Ground can be broken in March with completion of the project occurring sometime this fall.

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